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High Court Orders Shaw Conspiracy Case Trial

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court cleared the way Monday for New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison to try Clay L. Shaw for conspiracy in the murder of President John F. Kennedy.

Shaw, a 55-year-old retired businessman, had appealed to the court for "sanctuary," asking that the prosecution be blocked. He accused Garrison of persecution and said the district attorney does not really expect to win a conviction that would stand up.

Moreover, Shaw sought to knock out Louisiana's conspiracy laws and to make binding on all courts in the land the Warren Commission's conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone, assassinated Kennedy.

The justices, apparently by an 8-0 vote, affirmed dismissal of Shaw's suit by a panel of three federal judges in Texas last May. The ruling does not pass judgment on the merits of the case against Shaw. It simply finds federal intervention in the state-court prosecution premature.

Chief Justice Earl Warren, who headed the commission that fixed the blame for Kennedy's killing on Oswald and discounted conspiracy theories, removed himself from consideration of Shaw's appeal.

In New Orleans, the assistant district attorney, James L. Alcock, said a trial date would be set "as soon as possible," perhaps for next month.

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